Construction of National Highway No. 16

337. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government for repair of National Highway No. 16 from Nizamabad to Jagdalpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the project; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c). The National Highway 16 runs through the states of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra who have been allocated Rs. 6 13 crores. Rs 5.58 crores and Rs. 6.86 crores respectively as maintenance grants during the current year for National Highways in these states which includes National Highway 16 also. The maintenance activities are a continuous process and being taken up in a phased manner within the available funds network in the country is four lane.

Oil Spill at Haldia Dock

338. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was any oil spill in the river Hoogly at Haldia dock area during June, 1996,

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the Union Government have set up any High Power Committee to probe in this regard,

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent occurrence of such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir There was spillage of High Speed Diesel from barge "Prem Tista" chartered by Indian Oil Corporation at Barge Jetty No 1 during the early hours of 31 5 1996 Loading of petroleum products at the existing two barge jetties of Haldia Dock Complex is controlled and operated by Indian Oil Corporation (Marketing Division).

(c) and (d). No, Sir.

(e) Indian Oil Corporation which is controlling the entire operations at the barge jetty has taken steps for monitoring the loading operations closely from shore to the barge and is also training the personnel undertaking the barge operations.

Performance of National Highway Authority of India

339. SHRI K PRADHANI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) is fully operational;

(b) if so, the details of the works performed by the authority; and

(c) the details of expenditure incurred by the Authority during the last three years, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) NHAI has functioning since February, 1995 with one Chairman, three full-time and two part-time members.

(b) The details of works undertaken by National Highway Authority of India are as follows :

(i) Upgradation of 333 km on NH-8, 2, 9, and 5 in the States of Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh under Asian Development Bank loan assistance. NHAI has called and evaluated the bids appointed supervision consultants and set up the Project Implementation Units.

(ii) Short-listing of entrepreneurs for Durg bypass on NH-6, for BOT, has been done.

(c) No expenditure on any project has been incurred so far.

[Translation]

Policy for Foreign Investment

340 SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy regarding foreign investment,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when the above policy is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) (a) to (c) The Foreign Investment Policy as enumerated is constantly reveiwed to make it more dynamic with the objective of increasing foreign direct investment into the country particularly in priority/core sectors, including infrastructure.

Vacant Posts of Judges in Courts

341 SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :
PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of sanctioned posts of judges in High Courts and Supreme Court of India as on December 31, 1995, Court-wise;